WHITEHORSE FACT SHEET 1996

WHITEHORSE

The city of Whitehorse was established as a mining town during the Gold Rush of 1898. It was originally given the name "White Horse" by the gold miners who thought that the rapids at Miles Canyon looked like the manes of charging white horses. This name was used until 1957 when the Geographic Board of Canada combined the two words to form the name Whitehorse.

In 1942-43 the Alaska Highway was constructed, linking the Yukon to Canada's southern provinces and making Whitehorse more accessible. With the completion of the highway, the relatively small town of Whitehorse experienced a population boom from 750 people in 1941 to over 2,500 people in 1951.

On April 1, 1953, Whitehorse replaced Dawson City as the capital of the Yukon Territory. At present Whitehorse remains the major city in the Yukon and is home to over 70% of the Yukon's population. In keeping with its history, Whitehorse continues to supply services and administrative support to the mining industry. In 1995, mining had a value of over 160 million dollars in the Yukon. Currently, the majority of employment in Whitehorse lies in the areas of government, trade and tourism.

GOVERNMENT

Mayor:		Kathy Watson
Councillors:	Katie Hayhurst	Dan Boyd
	Barb Harris	Bernie Phillips
	Dave Stockdale	Jared Storey
City Manager:		Bill Newell

Finances ($)

1995 Revenue	
Total Operating Revenue	$26,758,000
Total Capital Revenue	$21,550,000
1995 Expenditures	
Total Operating Expenditures	$26,687,000
Total Capital Expenditures	$21,550,000
1995 Net Surplus*	$71,000

*Note: Figures may not total due to rounding

LAND

Total Land Area of Whitehorse 413.48 km^2

Population Density of the Municipality of Whitehorse
(Population Estimates, December 1995) 56.8 people per km^2

Elevation 640 m (at kilometer 1,476 of the Alaska Highway)

Principal Rivers and Lakes

Rivers: Takhini and Yukon
Lakes: Chadburn, Ear and Long

CLIMATE

Temperatures in Whitehorse are usually more extreme than those experienced in the southern provinces of Canada.

Temperature: Daily Averages and Records (Celsius)

	MEAN		RECORDS	
	Jan.	July	Low	High
Whitehorse	-18.7	14.0	-52.2	34.4

Precipitation: Annual Totals

	TOTAL (all forms)	RAIN	SNOWFALL
Whitehorse	268.8 mm	159.6 mm	145.2 cm

	RAIN AS A % OF TOTAL	SNOW AS A % OF TOTAL*	# OF DAYS OF PRECIPITATION
Whitehorse	59.4	40.6	122

*in water equivalent terms

POPULATION

Population as of December 1995, by age

	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE
0 - 4 years	1,715	849	866
5 - 9 years	1,892	902	990
10 - 14 years	1,875	895	980
15 - 19 years	1,619	770	849
20 - 24 years	1,589	812	777
25 - 29 years	1,899	997	902
30 - 34 years	2,336	1,235	1,101
35 - 39 years	2,515	1,273	1,242
40 - 44 years	2,388	1,178	1,210
45 - 49 years	2,008	946	1,062
50 - 54 years	1,254	540	714
55 - 59 years	863	387	476
60 - 64 years	592	262	330
65 - 69 years	388	149	239

70 - 74 years	245	123	122
75 years plus	296	166	130
Total	23,474	11,484	11,990

Ethnic Origin (Census 1991) (% of Population)

Single Origin	
British	20.8
Aboriginal Peoples	9.9
German	3.6
French	3.3
Ukrainian	1.5
Canadian	2.8
Dutch (Netherlands)	0.9
Other	6.5
Single Origin Total	49.4
Multiple Origins	49.9

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding

Whitehorse Population History

1911	852	1966	4,771
1921	331	1971	11,217
1931	541	1976	13,311
1941	754	1981	17,911
1951	2,594	1986	18,435
1956	2,570	1991	21,346
1961	5,031	1995	23,474

INSERT POPULATION HISTORY CHART HERE

1. The Alaska Highway was constructed in 1942-43
2. 1961 - Whitehorse boundaries changed (annexed part of surrounding area)
3. 1971 - Whitehorse boundaries changed (annexed part of surrounding area)

HOUSING ----------

Median Rents in Whitehorse Subdivisions, March 1996 ($)

	All	Down town	Riverdale	Hillcrest	Porter Creek	Granger
All Apartments	650	590	675	717	468	725
Bachelor	430	440	500	545	425	..
1 Bedroom	595	590	625	500	460	650
2 Bedrooms	675	695	675	745	675	725
3+ Bedrooms	750	845	750	..	850	..

Vacancy Rate, March 1996 (%)

	All	Down town	Riverdale	Hillcrest	Porter Creek	Granger
All Apartments	10.0	7.7	11.0	15.2	9.4	15.0
Bachelor	11.4	10.5	25.0	0.0	18.2	..
1 Bedroom	9.7	9.6	6.9	17.2	0.0	25.0
2 Bedrooms	10.8	1.1	13.3	15.2	0.0	12.5
3+ Bedrooms	3.1	0.0	2.0	..	14.3	..

Average Price Paid for Houses, All Sizes of House, Whitehorse ($000)

	All	Riverdale	Porter Creek	Country Residential	Granger	Logan
1995	148.1	137.0	150.1	145.6	188.8	176.4
1994	139.0	136.7	140.3	135.6	181.3	140.5
1993	147.8	144.6	150.3	155.4	172.2	..
1992	125.1	135.6	131.4	126.1	154.5	..
1991	112.3	119.5	115.3	105.0	..	..
1990	103.7	110.6	109.1	100.8	..	..
1989	89.8	104.0	93.9	80.3	..	..
1988	80.9	89.8	84.1	61.7	..	..
1987	70.7	85.1	66.2	63.2	..	..

Whitehorse Building Permits, Number and Value

	TOTAL PERMITS		ALL RESIDENTIAL		APARTMENT	
	(no.)	($000)	(no.)	($000)	(no.)	($000)
1995	573	61,512	438	14,855	6	135
1994	700	33,300	553	18,630	6	492
1993	624	25,335	512	14,432	9	3,817
1992	746	50,077	614	24,451	12	4,717
1991	590	48,685	456	12,838	7	1,101
1990	486	54,556	355	11,333	5	196
1989	514	28,304	373	11,465	18	5,017
1988	514	30,370	387	11,683	8	507

	INDUSTRIAL		INSTITUTIONAL		COMMERCIAL	
	(no.)	($000)	(no.)	($000)	(no.)	($000)
1995	30	1,622	41	41,428	58	3,473
1994	19	1,793	36	6,480	86	6,196
1993	15	726	21	2,091	67	4,269
1992	23	1,030	27	13,131	70	6,750
1991	18	1,879	40	26,431	73	6,496
1990	22	1,110	37	33,234	67	7,730
1989	8	557	36	6,683	79	4,556
1988	-	-	19	10,020	92	7,986

EARNINGS AND INCOME

Average Income in Whitehorse, 1983 to 1993

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CONSUMER PRICES

Whitehorse Spatial Price Index by Component, June 1994

	EDMONTON=100	VANCOUVER=100
All items	126.5	109.4
Food	136.8	113.0
Home Consumption	137.2	113.4
Restaurant Meals	135.8	112.3
Housing	140.9	117.2
Shelter	149.4	118.2
Household Operation	132.5	121.2
Furnishings	119.4	107.6
Clothing	116.0	106.8
Transportation	109.7	97.0
Private	102.0	90.9
Public	149.2	128.7
Health and Personal Care	121.1	105.8
Health Care	127.1	121.3
Personal Care	117.6	96.9
Recreation, Reading & Education	109.9	112.8
Recreation	109.6	108.5
Reading	136.2	151.9
Education	74.8	92.1
Tobacco & Alcohol	123.5	102.4
Tobacco	125.8	100.7
Alcohol	122.4	103.3

Note: This table shows what it would cost to buy a product in Whitehorse if it costs $100.00 to buy the same product in Edmonton or Vancouver.

EDUCATION & HEALTH

Highest Level of Education Achieved, Whitehorse (1991)
(Percentage of Population, 15 years of age and older)

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Education (December 1995)
Number of Schools and Enrollment

SCHOOL NAME	GRADES	ENROLLMENT	NUMBER OF TEACHERS (full time equivalent**)
Grey Mountain Primary	K-3	128	7.00
Christ the King Elementary	K-6	207	12.25
Elijah Smith Elementary	K-6	219	17.00
Golden Horn Elemtary	K-6	236	13.60
Hidden Valley Elementary	K-6	131	8.30
Holy Family Elementary	K-6	179	9.70
Jack Hulland Elementary	K-6	471	26.30
Selkirk Street Elementary	K-6	292	19.00
Takhini Elementary	K-6	177	12.70
Whitehorse Elementary*	K-6	404	27.15
Ecole Emilie Tremblay	K-12	105	10.00
Christ the King Secondary	7-10	233	14.00
Porter Creek Jr. Secondary	7-9	388	28.25
Riverdale Jr. Secondary*	7-9	456	30.20
F.H. Collins Secondary*	10-12	878	58.50
Total		4,504	298.00

*includes French immersion
**full time equivalent includes special programs and persons on leave

Post Secondary Institutions		1 (Yukon College)
Yukon College enrollment (December 1995)		
Full Time	817	
Part Time	2,706	

Health (December 1995)

Number of Hospitals	1	
Number of Hospital Beds Staffed	59	(includes 10 - short stay)
Number of Newborn Bassinets	10	
Number of Physicians (local)	42	
Number of Physicians licensed	91	
Number of Dentists (local)	14	
Number of Dentistis licensed	26	

CONTACTS ----------

For further information, contact:

The Yukon Government
Bureau of Statistics
Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A 2C6
Telephone: (403) 667-5640
Fax: (403) 393-6203

Yukon residents outside Whitehorse can call 1-800-661-0408 (toll free)

Additional Information/Contacts Include:

The Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce
Suite 101 - 302 Steele Street
Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A 2C5
Telephone: (403) 667-7545
Fax: (403) 667-4507

The Yukon Government
Department of Economic Development
Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6
Telephone: (403) 667-5466
Fax: (403) 667-8601

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Notes:
(-) = nil or zero
(p) = preliminary
(r) = revised
(..) = unavailable

Updated July, 1996